

School & Library Network Advisory Board Meeting

Minutes

October 15, 1997

Members Present: Bill Black, Tom Romano, Karl Beiser (for Gary Nichols), Ray Poulin, Phil Lindley, Stephen Gilbert, Joanne Steneck

Members Absent: Barry McCrum, Reginald Palmer

1. Approval of Minutes from September 10, 1997 Meeting. Minutes were approved.
2. Discussion of Press Conference. Art Henry described the plans for a press conference with Governor King on October 16 at Edward Little High School in Auburn. The Governor will recognize that 100% of Maine's public schools are now connected to the internet as are virtually all public libraries.
3. Report on Applications/Installations. 1,101 schools and libraries are now connected. Only 43 schools or libraries have not replied to mailings stating they were eligible to participate in the program. The Board decided not to send any additional mailings to this group. 24 entities declined to participate and will receive no additional mailings.

Art reported 670 sites have received their generic e-mail addresses through CAPs. The address list will be available by 10/24/97 for use by other entities. Almost every library has responded. Ray Poulin will work directly with schools to ensure each one accepts an address.

4. Evaluation. The survey of all schools and libraries will be done in-house at Bell Atlantic. This will cost less than using an outside contractor and the Board will have access to the survey results. A separate questionnaire was developed for AEV sites. The survey will be mailed to all sites on October 17, 1997 with a requested return date of November 3. A follow-up postcard will be sent to non-responding sites on November 6, 1997. NYNEX expects to have preliminary results available to the Board by December 6, 1997.
5. Report on Training. The subcommittee recommended that the three subcontractors (Northern Maine Technical College, University of Maine, University of Southern Maine) offer three types of training: one-day scheduled workshops, customized site-specific training, and on-site consulting. The subcontractors have agreed to the price and number of sessions for each type of training within the \$237,000 budget. The Board unanimously voted that Bell Atlantic should extend the contracts with each subcontractor to cover the

second-year training. John Pierce will develop information for a newsletter that will describe the three training options plus the technical coordinator training.

6. Status of FCC Universal Service Support for Schools and Libraries (E-Rate). Linda Lord described the draft of the application form recently issued by the FCC. It is more detailed than expected. DOE will likely submit an application on behalf of all Maine schools for discounted plain telephone service and A.T.M.

DOE sent a mailing to all school superintendents on October 6 with information on E-rate, the application process, information required and technology plans to meet FCC requirements. The State Librarian is working with libraries on their plans.

It was noted that many schools are encouraging parents to indicate eligibility for the school lunch program (even if they do not use the program) so that the E-rate discounts fairly match the population served by the school or library.

7. Other. The Board agreed with a plan worked out by Art Henry, Island Telephone and the Frenchboro school and library so that their 56 Kbps connection will move to "winter" library and the "summer" library will be connected to the school. The library has agreed to pay any extra costs associated with moving its current 56 connection from the summer library and adding the school-library connection.

The Board discussed a recent inquiry from a library whose computer malfunctioned some months after it was connected to the network. The Board recognized that this situation may arise for other schools and libraries during the remaining years of the program. The Board agreed that computer grants are not available to replace computers that malfunction during the term of the project.

The Board asked that Gerry Dube or representation of CAPs attend the next meeting to report on the status of the network and usage of the network.

The next meeting was tentatively scheduled for December 10, 1997. It was agreed that Joanne Steneck would e-mail members in advance to determine whether sufficient agenda items exist to warrant a meeting.